

Remarks

The Office Action mailed March 5, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 6, 7, 10-18, and 20-24 are pending prior to entry of this Amendment. Claims 6, 7, 10-18, and 20-23 stand rejected. Claims 24 stands objected to. Claims 1 and 3-5 were previously withdrawn from consideration and cancelled. This Amendment amends Claims 6, 14, and 24, and cancels claims 21-23.

No fee is believed required entry of this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is authorized to consider this a request for the necessary extension of time if such extension is required for entry of this Amendment, and as authorization to charge deposit account 01-2384 any necessary fees for entry and consideration of this Amendment.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office's acceptance of the drawings submitted November 26, 2004.

The rejection of Claims 6, 7, 10-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bussan et al. is respectfully traversed.

Applicants disagree with the Office's interpretation the cross support and side support disclosed by Bussan et al. meet the language of Claims 6 and 14 as currently pending before entry of this Amendment. More specifically, Applicants do not believe that one of ordinary skill in the art would reasonably interpret the cross support and side supports of Bussan et al. to be adhered to the side of the plate recited by Applicants' claims by virtue of being integrally formed with the frame. However, to place the Application in better form for appeal, Applicants request the entry of this Amendment. If this Amendment is entered, Claims 6 and 14 will be amended to recite the language indicated by the Examiner as patentably distinguishing Claim 24 from both Bussan et al. and Kane et

al. Because this subject matter has already been considered by the Office, no further search should be required.

Because the amendments to Claims 6 and 14 recite subject matter deemed by the Office as not being taught or suggested by Bussan et al. or Kane et al., it is submitted that Claims 6 and 14 as herein amended would be patentable over Bussan et al upon entry of this Amendment.

Claims 7 and 10-13 depend directly or indirectly upon Claim 6 as herein amended. When the recitations of Claims 7 and 10-13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 6 as herein amended, it is submitted that Claims 7 and 10-13 are likewise patentable over Bussan et al.

Claims 15-18 and 20 depend directly or indirectly upon Claim 14 as herein amended. When the recitations of Claims 15-18 and 20 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 14 as herein amended, it is submitted that Claims 15-18 and 20 are likewise patentable over Bussan et al.

For these reasons discussed above, entry of the Amendment and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 6, 7, 10-18 and 20 is requested.

Claims 21-23 stand rejected as being anticipated by Kane et al. If the Amendment is entered, Claims 21-23 would be cancelled and this rejection would no longer apply. Therefore, entry of this Amendment and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 21-23 is requested.

Claim 24 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. If the Amendment is entered, Claim 24 would be amended to rewrite it in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. (There are no intervening claims.) The Office has indicated that Claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten in this manner. Therefore, entry of this Amendment and withdrawal of the objection to Claim 24 is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance upon entry of this Amendment. Entry of this Amendment, reconsideration and favorable action is thus respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

April 30, 2004



Alan L. Cassel
Registration No. 35,842
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070